(c) whether a good number of Hawks have been grounded for want of spares, maintenance or quality control issues etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) While the planned strength of trainees to commence training on Hawk aircraft, has been modified for the course commencing from January, 2009, the total number of trainee pilots of the fighter stream being trained has been kept constant.

The review of training module is a continuous phenomenon keeping in view the training assets of the air force.

It is incorrect to say that a good number of Hawks have been grounded for want of spares and maintenance issues. The maintenance philosophy of the Indian Air Force addresses issues of serviceability, product support etc. Besides, a continuous and multifaceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance fleet availability. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

BPL persons in the country

*135. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 30 crore persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country, about 22 crore, *i.e.* 73 per cent live in rural areas;

(b) whether Government has so far examined reasons for rural poverty;

(c) whether Government has set up any mechanism to verify the actual BPL list (State-wise); and

(d) the steps Government has taken so far to achieve "Millennium Development Goal of eardicating extreme hunger and poverty" under its various schemes like NREGA, IGNOAPS, SGSY etc. by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. According to poverty estimates of Planning Commission released for the year 2004-05 based on the Sample Survey Data on Household Consumer Expenditure (NSS 61st Round), 30.17 crore people were living below the poverty line out of which 22.09 crore (73.22%) were in rural areas.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan Document analyses the reasons for rural poverty which includes unemployment and under-employment, lack of access to natural resources, over dependence on agriculture, besides chronic social factors. While the estimation of poverty in the Country is done by the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States/UTs to conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan with the objective to identify the BPL

families living the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. Last BPL Census 2002 was conducted for the Tenth Five Year Plan which was based on the methodology of Score Based Ranking of the Rural Households for which 13 Socio Economic Parameters were used. The BPL list so prepared by the States is to be approved by the Gram Sabha in its open meeting. For redressing the public grievances, a two-stage appeal mechanism was also provided. In order to ensure transparency, the States have been requested to keep the printed copies of the BPL list at the Village Panchayat level and also to post it on the public domain besides painting of IAY Permanent Waitlist on the wall of the common building. About 16 States have already posted the BPL data either on the State website or on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(d) The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) envisages eradication of extreme poverty and hunger with the target to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day between 1990 and 2015. Keeping in view a large number of people living below the poverty line in the Country and the MDGs, Government has resorted to direct intervention for poverty reduction through various programmes specially focusing on generation of employment, development of rural infrastructure, strengthening of rural livelihood and providing basic amenities to the rural people. The present programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are the steps towards eradication of rural poverty and to achieve the MDGs of eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as well. The NREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment to all the rural households in a financial year whose adult members volunteer to do the manual work. Under this programme, employment of 90.50 crore persondays was generated during 2006-07. During 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto January '09) employment of 143.59 crore persondays and 152.12 crore persondays was generated, respectively. Under SGSY about 32 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed since 1999 and 115 lakh Swarozgaris were provided economic assistance to set up income generating activities. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, more than 63 lakh houses have been constructed for the rural poor during the last four years which provides better living environment to them. Under IGNOAPS it is anticipated that over 150 lakh beneficiaries will be covered during 2008-09.

The Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to restructure the self-employment programme of SGSY for its implementation in a mission mode and in a time bound manner with placement based skill development as one of major components. The objective is to provide sustainable employment to the rural poor and to step up the pace of eradication of poverty in the country.

Fake domicile certificates for recruitment in Army

*136. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some youths have provided fake domicile certificates purported to be issued by the State Governments during recruitment in Army;